16. (Three Times Amended) The diagnostic reagent as in claim 15 wherein said recombinant FlaA protein comprises a fusion protein.

21. (Twice Amended) A diagnostic reagent for early detection of Lyme disease produced by a method comprising: providing freshly transformed host cells; constructing a DNA expression vector containing an expressible FlaA encoding DNA sequence; transforming a suitable host cell with said expression vector; plating out said transformed host cells; preparing large scale primary cell cultures from transformed host cells taken from a fresh transformant colony; and inducing FlaA protein expression from said host cells in culture to produce a recombinant FlaA protein encoded by a nucleic acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:1.

22. (Twice Amended) A diagnostic reagent as in claim 21 comprising an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:2.

23. (Twice Amended) The recombinant FlaA protein of claim 21 comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by the nucleic acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:3.

24. (Twice Amended) A diagnostic reagent as in claim 21 wherein said recombinant FlaA protein is a fusion protein.

26. (Twice Amended) A diagnostic reagent as in claim 21 wherein said transformed host cell is an E. coli cell.

Remarks

The amendments cancel claims 14 and 20, and amend the remaining claims to be dependent upon claims 15 and 21. The cancellations and amendments are made to secure allowable claims in the near future and are not admissions of their patentability or lack